

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**APPLICANT** ECKMILLER, ROLF ET AL.

**TITLE** MICROCONTACT STRUCTURE FOR NEUROPROSTHESES  
FOR IMPLANTATION ON NERVE TISSUE AND METHOD  
THEREFOR

**FILING DATE** Herewith

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Honorable Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Box Patent Applications, Washington, D.C. 20231

Date of Deposit: Jan 26, 2001

Name: Richard C. Woodbridge

Signature

Date of Signature: Jan 26, 2001

**HONORABLE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS**  
**BOX PATENT APPLICATIONS**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to a First Office Action on the merits of this application please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 3, line 25 please add the following:

**- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Figs. 1a-1c illustrate the manner in which the microcontact structure can be folded.

Fig. 1d illustrates the manner in which the folded structure can be clamped in place.

Figs. 2a-2b illustrate the manner in which the microcontact structure can be rolled into a three dimensional object.

Fig. 3 illustrates the manner in which the microcontact structure can conform to the shape of a three dimensional surface.

Fig. 4a is a cross-sectional illustration of the 4-layer microcontact structure in which the active connection between the microcontact structure and the nerve tissue is brought about by electrical stimulation.

Fig. 4b illustrates the manner in which the microcontact structure can be cured by infrared radiation (I.R.) so that the microcontact film is deformed at defined points by focused irradiation and matched to the nerve tissue.

Fig. 4c illustrated the deformation of the microcontact structure by focused UV treatment. —

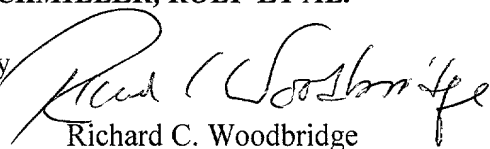
**REMARKS:**

The foregoing Preliminary Amendment is submitted in order to bring the application into better conformance with standard U. S. Patent practice.

Respectfully submitted,

**ECKMILLER, ROLF ET AL.**

By



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